

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 SCS-03 PA-03 PRS-01 INR-09 L-03

H-02 RSC-01 /055 R

DRAFTED BY AF/ E: TJBURKE: SM EXT. 28851

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APPROVED BY AF/ E: HRMELONE

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R 162002 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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STADIS//////////

E. O. 11652, N/ A

TAGS: PINT, MI

SUBJ: JEHOVAH' S WITNESSES

1. MARCH 8 EDITION OF JEHOVAH' S WITNESS PUBLICATION
" AWAKE" CARRIES ARTICLE ON MISTREATMENT OF WITNESSES IN
MALAWI. ARTICLE POINTS OUT: (A) WITNESSES WHO FLED TO
ZAMBIA LAST YEAR WERE DUPED INTO RETURNING TO MALAWI
BY GRZ OFFICIALS; (B) WHEN RETURNEES ARRIVED IN MALAWI,
THEY WERE SUBJECTED TO SUBSTANTIALLY SAME TREATMENT WHICH
EARLIER HAD LED THEM TO FLEE COUNTRY; AND (C) RETURNEES
CONTINUING RESIST PRESSURE TO PURCHASE MCP CARDS, UNDER-
GOING MISTREATMENT AND AGAIN TAKING TO BUSH.

2. DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS WITNESSES HAVE STATIONED
THEMSELVES AT ENTRANCES TO DEPARTMENT IN ORDER PASS OUT
COPIES OF MARCH 8 " AWAKE." ACCORDING TO CHARGE MKONA
ONE WITNESS WAS PASSING OUT MAGAZINE ON MARCH 9 IN FRONT
OF MALAWI CHANCERY. AT MKONA' S REQUEST, POLICE ASKED
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WITNESS TO LEAVE WHICH HE DID WITHOUT CAUSING SCENE.

3. IN MARCH 14 TELECON WITH AF/ E A WITNESS INDICATED HE
HAD BEEN RESEARCHING U. S. ASSISTANCE TO MALAWI, HAD
ALREADY MADE PRELIMINARY CONTACT WITH STAFF OF HOUSE SUB-
COMMITTEE ON AFRICA, AND THAT SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DIGGS

AWAITING LETTER FROM HIM ON PLIGHT OF MALAWI WITNESSES.
DEPOFF TOLD WITNESS THAT GOM REACTION TO REPRESENTATIONS
ON SUBJECT HAD NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING. WITNESS TOLD
DEPOFF THAT HE SAW NO ALTERNATIVE TO CONTINUING ATTEMPTS
FOCUS U. S. PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION ON MATTER.
ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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